Appln. No. 09/895,771   IBM Docket No. RPS9-2001-0006
Amdt. dated Jan. 06, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 06, 2004
Docket No. 6169-235

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for integrated multi-channel retailing, comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of message adaptors with corresponding retail integrated technology (IT) systems for processing common data in a plurality of retail channels, said association forming a peer-to-peer network;

intercepting in said adaptors data processing messages generated in said corresponding retail IT systems;

converting in said adaptors said intercepted data processing messages to a common message format; and,

forwarding each converted data processing message to others of said retail IT systems.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said common message format is a format based upon a user definable mark-up language.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2,   wherein said user definable mark-up language is the extensible markup language (XML).

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forwarding step comprises the steps of:

forwarding each converted data processing message to a data control point; and,

routing said forwarded messages in said data control point to said others of said retail IT systems.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of queuing said intercepted messages in message queues in said adaptors prior to converting said messages to a common data format.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of queuing said converted messages in message queues in said adaptors prior to forwarding said messages to said others of said retail IT systems.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for integrating multi-channel retailing, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

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associating a plurality of message adaptors with corresponding retail integrated

technology (IT) systems for processing common data in a plurality of retail channels, said

association forming a peer-to-peer network;

intercepting in said adaptors data processing messages generated in said

corresponding retail IT systems;

converting in said adaptors said intercepted data processing messages to a

common message format; and,

forwarding each converted data processing message to others of said retail IT

systems.

8.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 7, wherein said common

message format is a format based upon a user definable mark-up language.

9.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 8, wherein said user

definable mark-up language is the extensible markup language (XML).

10.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 7, wherein said forwarding

step comprises the steps of:

forwarding each converted data processing message to a data control point; and,

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routing said forwarded messages in said data control point to said others of said

retail IT systems.

11.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 7, further comprising the step

of queuing said intercepted messages in message queues in said adaptors prior to

converting said messages to a common data format.

12.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 7, further comprising the step

of queuing said converted messages in message queues in said adaptors prior to

forwarding said messages to said others of said retail IT systems.

13.   (Original)   A method for integrated multi-channel retailing, comprising the

steps of:

        intercepting data processing messages in a retail information technology

(IT) system for use in one type of retail channel;

        formatting data in said intercepted messages using a user-definable markup

language; and,

        asynchronously communicating said formatted data to at least one other

retail IT system for use in at least one other type of retail channel.

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14.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein said user definable markup language is the extensible markup language (XML).

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein said asynchronously communicating step comprises the steps of:

asynchronously forwarding each converted data processing message to a data control point; and,

asynchronously routing said forwarded messages in said data control point to said others of said retail IT systems.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 13, wherein said step of asynchronously communicating said formatted data to at least one other retail IT system for use in at least one other type of retail channel step comprises the step of:

queuing said formatted messages in a message queue; and,

incrementally forwarding each said queued messages to said others of said retail IT systems.

17.   (Original)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for integrating multi-channel retailing, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

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intercepting data processing messages in a retail information technology

(IT) system for use in one type of retail channel;

formatting data in said intercepted messages using a user-definable markup

language; and,

asynchronously communicating said formatted data to at least one other

retail IT system for use in at least one other type of retail channel.

18.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 17, wherein said user

definable markup language is the extensible markup language (XML).

19.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 17, wherein said

asynchronously communicating step comprises the steps of:

asynchronously forwarding each converted data processing message to a data

control point; and,

asynchronously routing said forwarded messages in said data control point to said

others of said retail IT systems.

20.   (Original)   The machine readable storage of claim 17, wherein said step of

asynchronously communicating said formatted data to at least one other retail IT system

for use in at least one other type of retail channel step comprises the steps of:

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queuing said formatted messages in a message queue; and,

incrementally forwarding each said queued messages to said others of said

retail IT systems.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A method for integrated multi-channel retailing,

comprising the steps of:

in a message adaptor associated with a retail information technology (IT) system,

detecting a modification to common data in the retail IT information technology (IT)

system configured for use in a retail channel;

in the message adaptor, formatting a message encapsulating said detected

modification to said common data, and forwarding said formatted message to other retail

IT systems configured for use in other retail channels; and,

in the message adaptor, receiving formatted messages which encapsulate

modifications to common data, extracting said common data from the formatted message,

formatting said extracted data to a format which can be processed in said retail IT system

configured for use in said one type of retail channel, and forwarding said formatted data

to said retail IT system.

22.   (Currently Amended)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon a

computer program for integrating multi-channel retailing, said computer program having

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a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform

the steps of:

in a message adaptor associated with a retail information technology (IT) system,

detecting a modification to common data in the retail IT ~~information technology (IT)~~

system configured for use in a retail channel;

in the message adaptor, formatting a message encapsulating said detected

modification to said common data, and forwarding said formatted message to other retail

IT systems configured for use in other retail channels; and,

in the message adaptor, receiving formatted messages which encapsulate

modifications to common data, extracting said common data from the formatted message,

formatting said extracted data to a format which can be processed in said retail IT system

configured for use in said one type of retail channel, and forwarding said formatted data

to said retail IT system.

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